

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figures 1, 2, 4, 6, 8(a), 8(b), 10, and 11 as follows and as shown on the attached corrected formal drawings thereof.

In Figure 1:

Delete reference numeral "3" (four occurrences) and the lead lines therefrom.

In Figure 2:

Delete reference characters "5f6" and "1b" and the lead lines therefrom; and

Delete reference numeral "141" and the lead line therefrom.

In Figure 4:

Delete reference characters "4e1" and the lead line therefrom.

In Figure 6:

Delete reference characters " 5h1' ", " 5h' ", and " 5h2' " and the lead lines therefrom.

In Figure 8(a):

Delete reference characters "5h2" (both occurrences) and the lead lines therefrom.

In Figure 8(b):

Delete reference characters "5h2" and the lead line therefrom.

In Figure 10:

Delete reference characters "5f6" and the lead line therefrom.

In Figure 11:

Delete reference characters "5h2" and the lead line therefrom.

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-15 are pending with Claims 1 and 12 being independent. Claims 1--7 and 12-15 have been amended for reasons unrelated to patentability to correct minor and typographical errors. In addition, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 12 have been amended to overcome formal objections thereto.

Requested action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Oath/Declaration

The Examiner requires the filing of an executed oath or declaration. In response, Applicants submit herewith an executed Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney, as well as an Assignment document with an assignment recordation transmittal, and appropriate fees.

A check in the amount of \$130.00 is enclosed to cover the Declaration surcharge fee. Any overpayment or underpayment in these fees, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Specification Objections

The Examiner objects to minor informalities in the title of the invention, in the abstract, and on pages 14 and 42 of the specification. In response, while not conceding the propriety of

the objection, Applicants have amended the title of the invention, the abstract and the specification to address the points raised by the Examiner, thereby obviating the objections.

Additional Specification Amendments

In addition, Applicants have amended the specification for reasons unrelated to patentability to improve its form and to correct minor and typographical errors therein. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 12 for minor informalities therein and suggests specific amendments to overcome the objections. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objections, Applicants have amended these claims to adopt the Examiner's suggestions, thereby obviating the objections. In addition, Applicants have amended Claims 1-7 and 12-15 for reasons unrelated to patentability to improve their form.

Drawing Amendments

Applicants have amended Figures 1, 2, 4, 6, 8(a), 8(b), 10, and 11 to delete reference numerals and characters not discussed in the specification. Corrected formal drawings of these figures are also enclosed.

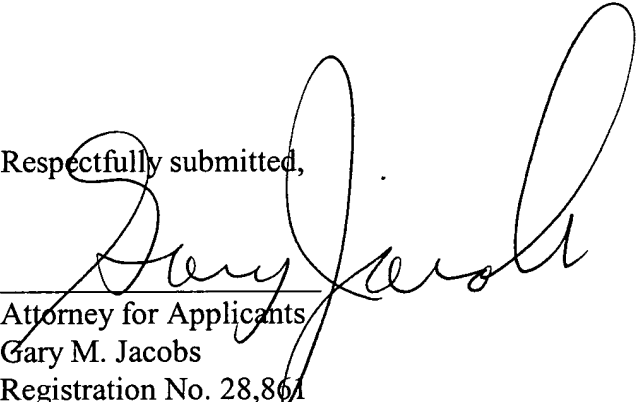
Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form.

Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Gary M. Jacobs
Registration No. 28,861

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
GMJ:ayr

DC_MAIN 198344v1